(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had submitted proposals for the development of ports in the Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals which are still pending and the progress made so far in respect thereof; and

(c) when were these proposals mooted and the reasons for the delay?

The MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Maharashtra Maritime Board had proposed four porjects of development of minor ports at Jaigad, Dharamtar, Redi and Vijaydurg under the proposed National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP). Government has for the time being decided to prepare the National Maritime Development Programme, comprising schemes/ projects for development of Major Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transport Systems.

Cost of Sethu Samudram Project

1788. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total estimate of the cost of Sethu Samudram project; and

(b) what is the amount alloted so far, and by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The approved cost of the project is Rs.2427.40 crores.

(b) The Government of India have contributed Rs.51 crores and other equity partners have contributed Rs.44.50 crores so far towards equity. The project is scheduled to be completed by November, 2008.

Nh-5 in Andhra Pradesh

1789. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI has not responded positively to some representations pertaining to design and maintenance of some section of the NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that representation have been made to the NHAI regarding faulty design on NH-5 between the stretch from Rajanagaram to Annavaram in East Godavari district;

(c) the details of such representations pending with NHAI in the last two years and reasons for lack of action and response by NHAI;

(d) to what extent has the NHAI been un-responsive to demands and requests from responsible organizations, colleges and other institutions in that area; and

(e) the steps proposed for rectifying this type of negligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received for provision of service roads, median opening, underpasses, central median lighting etc. for the stretch of NH-5 between Rajanagaram to Annvaram in East Godavari District.

(c) to (e) The construction work on the NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh has already been completed as part of Golden Quadrilateral Project. Road Safety Forum (s)/local representatives have demanded certain improvement on the 4 lane stretch. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has invited consultancy services for Road Safety Audit and included all such demands in Terms of Reference for the consultancy.

Rest Areas on NH-5

1790. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh had pleaded for specific Rest on NH-5;

(b) if so, whether NHAI has made any effort to contract, discuss and communicate with the Road safety Forum to develop such sites;

(c) what are the reasons for the lethargic approach of the NHAI in this matter; and

(d) what steps would be taken to complete such tasks initiated by the Road Safety Forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A representation for rest area near Eluru was received and it was planned to construct rest area on the site, but because of litigation the required land to construct the rest area could not be acquired. However,